

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 8-14, amend claims 1-7, and add new claims 15-23. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place comprising:

5 a customer-operated automatic meal ticket dispenser which  
accepts a customer-initiated order, corresponding to order  
identifying information, and which dispenses a meal ticket, the  
dispenser including first transmitting means for transmitting the  
order identifying information of the meal ticket proximate the  
time the order is placed,

10 reading units, arranged in customers' tables, respectively,  
for reading order identifying information of meal tickets of  
customers,

second transmitting means for transmitting cooking  
information including the order identifying information read by  
[[the]] a respective reading unit and a seat number identifying

15 information on the table in which the reading unit is arranged,  
and

20 cooking information informing means for receiving the order  
identifying information transmitted by the first transmitting  
means and the cooking information transmitted by the second  
transmitting means, and for ~~informing at least either of a cook~~  
[[and]] or a cooking director of ~~at least~~ the order identifying  
information and the seat number identifying information of the  
cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means.

2. (Currently Amended) The food and drink serving system for  
[[the]] an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1,  
comprising a food and drink carrier container and identifying  
information imparting means for imparting the seat number  
5 identifying information to the food and drink carrier container.

3. (Currently Amended) A food and drink serving system for an  
eating and drinking place comprising:

a customer-operated automatic meal ticket dispenser which  
accepts a customer-initiated order, corresponding to order  
identifying information, and which dispenses a meal ticket, the  
dispenser including first transmitting means for transmitting the  
order identifying information of the meal ticket proximate the  
time the order is placed,

reading units, arranged in customers' tables, respectively,  
for reading order identifying information of meal tickets of  
customers,

second transmitting means for transmitting cooking  
information including the order identifying information read by  
[[the]] a respective reading unit and a seat number identifying  
information on the table in which the reading unit is arranged,

an automatic cooking unit for automatically cooking an  
ordered food and drink in accordance with the order identifying  
information ~~of the cooking information~~ transmitted by the first  
transmitting means, and

a seat number identifying information imparting means for  
imparting the seat number identifying information to an  
automatically-cooked-food-and-drink carrier container in  
accordance with the seat number identifying information of the  
cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means.

4. (Currently Amended) The food and drink serving system for  
[[the]] an eating and drinking place according to Claim 2,  
comprising [[an]] automatic conveying means for putting the  
cooked food thereon and conveying [[it]] the cooked food from a  
5 food preparation location ~~cooking place~~ to the seat associated  
with the seat number identifying information.

5. (Currently Amended) The food and drink serving system for  
[[the]] an eating and drinking place according to Claim 3,  
comprising [[an]] automatic conveying means for putting the  
cooked food thereon and conveying [[it]] the cooked food from a  
food preparation location ~~cooking place~~ to the seat associated  
with the seat number identifying information.

6. (Currently Amended) The food and drink serving system for  
[[the]] an eating and drinking place according to Claim 4,  
wherein the automatic conveying means comprises [[a]] guide means  
for announcing an arrival of [[the]] ordered food and drink to  
the customer when the food and drink arrives ~~is arrived~~ at the  
seat associated with the seat number identifying information.

7. (Currently Amended) The food and drink serving system for  
the eating and drinking place according to Claim 5, wherein the  
automatic conveying means comprises [[a]] guide means for  
announcing an arrival of [[the]] ordered food and drink to the  
customer when the food and drink arrives ~~is arrived~~ at the seat  
associated with the seat number identifying information.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

AA 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

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15. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the customer initiated order is provided to the dispenser prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place.

16. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 3, wherein the customer initiated order is provided to the dispenser prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place.

AJ 17. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the customer initiated order is transmitted by the first transmitting means prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place.

18. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 3, wherein the customer initiated order is transmitted by the first transmitting means prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place.

19. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the automatic meal

ticket dispenser is configured to accept payment from the customer proximate the time that the customer-initiated order is provided to the dispenser.

20. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 3, wherein the automatic meal ticket dispenser is configured to accept payment from the customer proximate the time that the customer-initiated order is provided to the dispenser.

21. (New) A food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place comprising:

an automatic meal ticket dispenser which accepts a customer-initiated order, corresponding to order identifying information, and which dispenses a meal ticket, and first transmitting means for transmitting the order identifying information of the meal ticket proximate the time the order is placed and prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place,

reading units, arranged in customers' tables, respectively, for reading order identifying information of meal tickets of customers,

second transmitting means for transmitting cooking information including the order identifying information read by a respective reading unit and a seat number identifying information on the table in which the reading unit is arranged, and

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cooking information informing means for receiving the order identifying information transmitted by the first transmitting means and the cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means, and for informing a cook or a cooking director of the order identifying information and the seat number identifying information of the cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means.

22. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 21, wherein the automatic meal ticket dispenser is operated by the customer and the order is provided to the dispenser directly by the customer.

23. (New) The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 21, wherein the automatic meal ticket dispenser is configured to accept payment from the customer proximate the time that the customer-initiated order is provides to the dispenser.

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